

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DAVID J. CATANZARO,
286 Upper Powderly Street
Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407

Plaintiff,

VS.

WALMART STORES, INC.,
WALMART.COM,
ALIEXPRESS,
MICHAELS STORES, INC.,
MSPCI,
WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS, INC.,
AMAZON.COM, INC.,
DIAMOND VISION INC.,
CURRENT MEDIA GROUP INC.,
and DOES 1 THROUGH 50

Defendants.

Case No. 3:22-cv-1768

JUDGE MALACHY E MANNION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FILED
SCRANTON

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DEPUTY CLERK

**PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff, David J. Catanzaro ("Plaintiff" or "Mr. Catanzaro"), complains of Walmart Stores, Inc. ("Walmart"), Walmart.com, AliExpress, Michaels Stores, Inc. ("Michaels Stores"), Mspci, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. ("Wegmans"), Amazon.com, Inc. ("Amazon"), Diamond Vision Inc. ("Diamond Vision") and Current Media Group Inc. ("Current Media Group") as follows:

I. JURISDICTION.

1. This is a claim for patent infringement under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code. This Court and other federal district courts have exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case under 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a).

II. VENUE.

2. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) and (c) in that this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred. Further, venue is proper as to each defendant under 28 U.S.C. §1400(b).

III. PARTIES.

3. Plaintiff currently resides at 286 Upper Powderly Street, Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407. Plaintiff is the owner of United States Patent No. 7,653,959 B1 (the “959 patent”), entitled “Article Assembly,” that issued on February 2, 2010 and expired on December 30, 2016. Under section 286 of the patent act, Plaintiff has the sole right to a six year look back to sue for infringement of said patent, allowing Plaintiff from the day of this filing up to December 30, 2022 to make a valid claim. A copy of the ‘959 patent is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

4. Upon information and belief, Walmart & Walmart.com are Arkansas companies with a principal place of business at 702 SW 8th Street, Bentonville, AR 72712

5. Upon information and belief, AliExpress is a California company with its principal place of business at 400 S El Camino Real #400, San Mateo, CA 94402,

6. Upon information and belief, Michaels is a Texas company with its principal place of business at 8000 Bent Branch Dr Irving, Texas 75063
7. Upon information and belief, Mspci is a Texas company with its principal place of business at 8000 Bent Branch Dr Irving, Texas 75063
8. Upon information and belief, Wegmans is a New York company with its principal place of business at 1500 Brooks Ave, Rochester, NY 14624
9. Upon information and belief, Amazon is a Washington company with its principal place of business at 410 Terry Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109
10. Upon information and belief, Diamond Vision is a Wisconsin company with Its principal place of business at 401 W. Marquette Avenue Oak Creek, WI 53154
11. Upon information and belief, Current Media Group is a Colorado company with its principal place of business at 6765 Campus Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80920
12. Plaintiff does not know the true identities of fictitious Defendants Does 1 through 50, but reserves the right to amend this complaint to add said defendants upon discovery of their true identities.
13. This court has personal jurisdiction over the named Defendants.

IV. RELEVANT MATTER

14. The “959 patent is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,532 (the “532 patent”) which was assigned to the Church & Dwight Co. on February 28, 2011, as part of

a settlement agreement during a patent infringement lawsuit (*David Catanzaro v. Procter & Gamble Co. et al.*)

15. The '959 patent contained a Terminal Disclaimer whereby the Disclaimer stated that joint ownership of the '532 and '959 patent was required for the '959 patent to be enforceable.

16. Church & Dwight assigned the '532 patent back to Plaintiff on August 31, 2016 (The Assignment effective date). The Assignment is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**

17. Plaintiff has full legal right to commence this matter.

CLAIMS.

COUNT I – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 17, inclusive.

19. An actual, present and justiciable controversy has arisen between Plaintiff and Defendants regarding the '959 patent.

20. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, *et seq.*, Plaintiff seeks declaratory judgment from this Court that Defendants have infringed upon the '959 patent.

COUNT VI – PATENT INFRINGEMENT

21. Defendants transact business in this judicial district related to the '959 patent, without a license or permission from plaintiff. Defendants have infringed, induced others to infringe, and/or contributorily infringed, literally or under the doctrine of

equivalents, one or more claims of the '959 patent. Defendants did so by manufacturing, having manufactured, importing, using, offering for sale and/or selling products that embody and/or practice the patented invention, known generally as, but not limited to "Solar Dancers," Solar Dancing Figurines," "Solar Dancing Toys," "Christmas Sunny Jigglers," "Stocking stuffers Solar Dancer" and assorted product lines.

22. Defendants transact business in this judicial district and have committed acts of infringement in this judicial district by offering for sale and selling the Solar Dancers, Solar Dancing Figurines, Solar Dancing Toys and/or Christmas Sunny Jigglers, Stocking stuffers Solar Dancers and assorted product lines after February 2, 2010.

23. Plaintiff seeks damages for patent infringement against defendant for the maximum period of time permitted by law.

24. Defendants have directly infringed claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of the '959 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(a). Upon information and belief, Defendants have also infringed claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of the '959 patent by knowingly and actively inducing others to infringe in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).

25. Upon information and belief, Defendants infringement of the '959 patent have been willful and deliberate. Defendants infringement has injured plaintiff.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, David J. Catanzaro, respectfully requests that this Court enter Judgment against Defendants and against their subsidiaries, successors, parents,

affiliates, directors, agents, servants, employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, granting the following relief:

- A. Issue a declaratory judgment stating that Defendants has infringed the '959 patent;
- B. Order an award of damages adequate to compensate Plaintiff for the infringement that has occurred, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty as permitted by 35 U.S.C. § 284, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- C. Issue a finding that Defendants acts of infringement have been willful and ordering an award of increased damages as provided by 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- D. Order Defendants to pay plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and costs of this action; and,
- E. Order such other relief that Plaintiff is entitled to under law and any other further relief that this Court or jury may deem just and proper.

VIII. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues presented in this complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Catanzaro
Plaintiff *pro se*
286 Upper Powderly Street
Carbondale, PA 18407
Phone: (570) 936-9262
E-mail: davidjosephus@aol.com

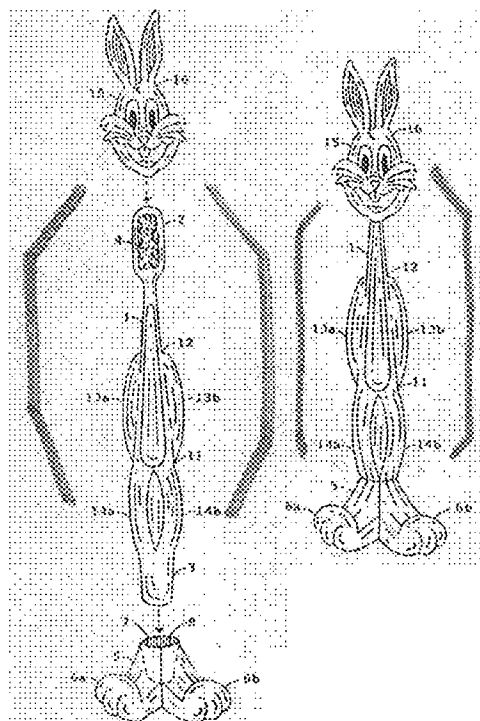
EXHIBIT A

US007653959B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Catanzaro(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,653,959 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 2, 2010**(54) **ARTICLE ASSEMBLY**(76) **Inventor:** **David Catanzaro**, 626 Penn Ave.,
Mayfield, PA (US) 18433(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.(21) **Appl. No.:** **09/505,791**(22) **Filed:** **Feb. 17, 2000****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) Continuation of application No. 08/777,032, filed on
Dec. 30, 1996, now Pat. No. 6,026,532.(51) **Int. Cl.**
A46B 9/04 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **15/167.1**; 15/184; 15/143.1;
15/257.01; D4/108; D4/107; D6/534; 248/111;
248/908; 132/308(58) **Field of Classification Search** D4/104,
D4/107, 108, 125, 126; D6/528, 534; 15/167.1,
15/143.1, 184, 257.01, 146, 246; 248/163.1,
248/188.8, 188.9, 110, 111, 915, 908; 132/308,
132/309; 206/362.3, 349, 457
See application file for complete search history.(56) **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**D155,668 S * 10/1949 Zandberg et al. D4/107
2,539,035 A * 1/1951 Scanlon et al. 248/111
D197,309 S * 1/1964 Feverbacher D4/1073,138,813 A * 6/1964 Kaplan 15/22
3,140,782 A * 7/1964 Schulte 248/908
D209,574 S * 12/1967 Zandberg et al. D4/107
D279,248 S * 6/1985 Oliver D6/104
5,269,420 A * 12/1993 Harrison et al. 206/362.3
5,353,464 A * 10/1994 Atkins et al. 15/167.1
5,444,889 A * 8/1995 Barre 15/167.1
D363,166 S * 10/1995 Perrine D4/104
D369,932 S * 5/1996 Petronio D6/534
D370,146 S * 5/1996 Petronio D6/534
D370,147 S * 5/1996 Petronio D6/534
5,590,436 A * 1/1997 Wright 15/105
5,675,859 A * 10/1997 Barre 15/167.1
D388,254 S * 12/1997 Schiffer D4/107
D392,464 S * 3/1998 Jesiolowski D4/107
D395,757 S * 7/1998 Schiffer D4/107
6,015,328 A * 1/2000 Glaser 15/167.1
6,026,532 A * 2/2000 Catanzaro 15/167.1
6,141,815 A * 11/2000 Harrison et al. 15/145**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand includes a copyright mark
of 1990.*

Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand was on sale in Mar. 1999.*

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Gary K. Graham(57) **ABSTRACT**An assembly comprising a toothbrush having a first and sec-
ond end. A stand in the shape of a pair of feet retains the brush
in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal
surface. For additional support, a base may be incorporated
with the stand.**8 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

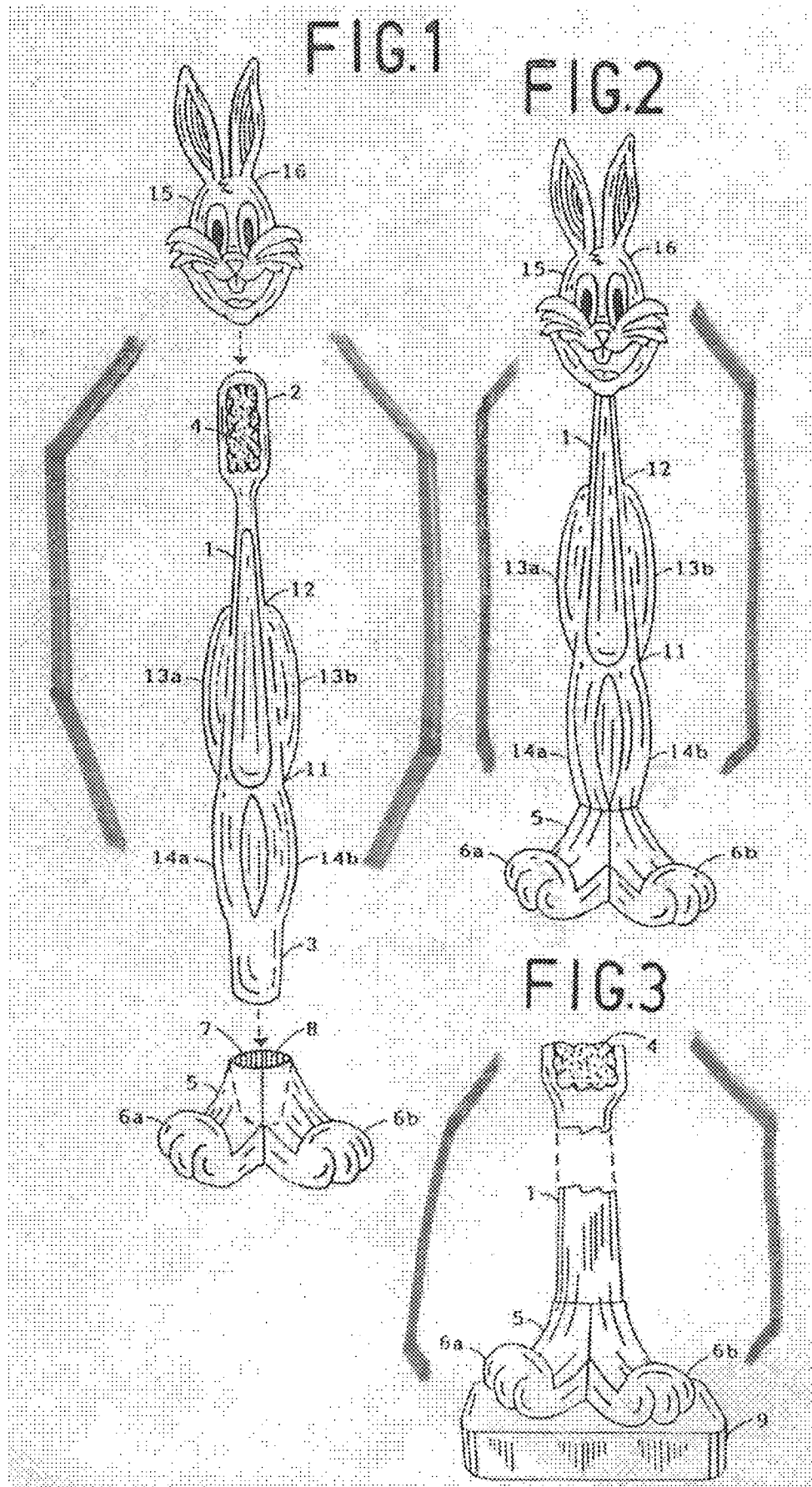


FIG. 4

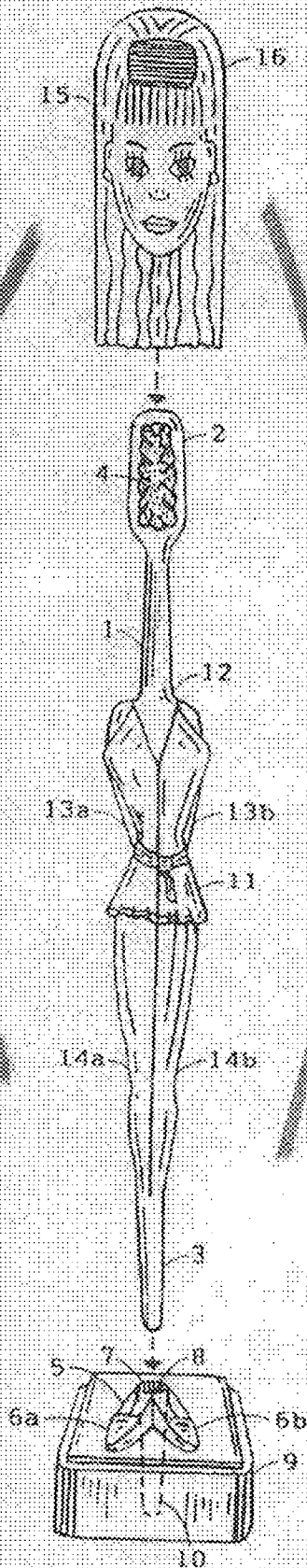
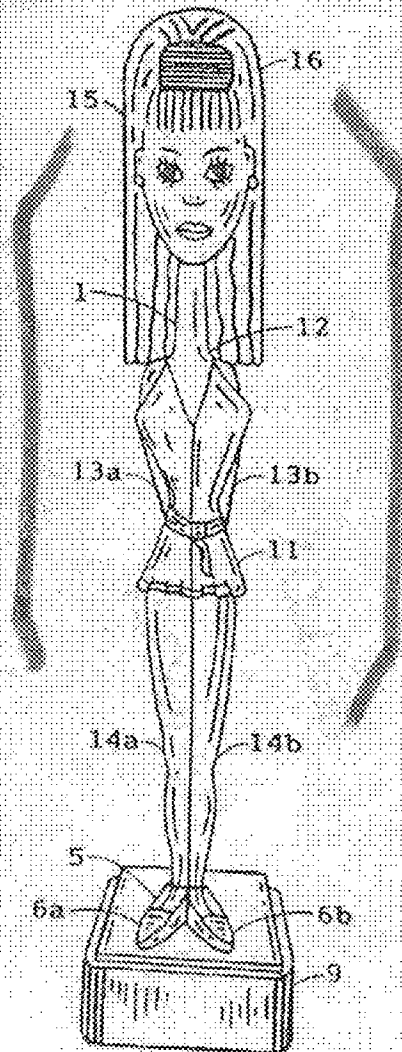


FIG. 5



US 7,653,959 B1

1 ARTICLE ASSEMBLY

This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility Application 08/777,032, filed on Dec. 30, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,026,532. The earlier filing date of this application is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C 120.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This application claim benefit to provisional Application 60/009,323 Dec. 28, 1995.

The instant invention relates generally to toothbrushes, but may also find a useful application in other types of methods differing from the type described herein. More specifically it relates to an assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities.

2. Description of the Prior Art

There are various advantages in storing a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. No. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petronio) discloses a toothbrush holder in the shape of a torso having a front and rear portion. The front portion includes a recess extending therethrough, wherein a brush handle can be inserted. Further included, extending from the front portion, is a pair of feet which are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear portion. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A first object of the present invention is to provide an assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide an assembly, comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a stand for receiving the second end of the brush handle therein, thereby retaining the handle in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the toothbrush handle.

A forth object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface and a single heel portion, wherein the single heel portion includes a recess for selectively receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein.

A fifth object is to provide an article assembly, in which a base is connected to the bottom side of the foot stand for providing additional stability to the foot stand.

A sixth object is to provide an article assembly, in which the base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with the recess in the foot stand for additionally receiving the receivable end of the article therein, for providing additional stability to the foot stand and article.

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A seventh object is to provide an article assembly, that is simple and easy to use.

An eight object is to provide an article assembly, that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With regard to FIGS. 1 and 2, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an elongated handle 1 having a first end 2 a second end 3 and a first and second side. A stand 5 is in the shape of first and second feet 6a and 6b. Each first and second feet 6a and 6b, are elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end. First and second feet 6a and 6b are joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface. The heel end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b, is positioned together to form a single heel portion 7. Single heel portion 7 includes a recess 8 extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, thereby retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when stand 5 is placed on a horizontal surface. First and second feet 6a and 6b each include a side surface, the side surfaces intersect one another in a common plane. The toe end of first and second feet 6a and 6b are at an acute angle to one another.

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to a bottom side of stand 5 as shown in FIG. 2. Base 9 may include a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for additionally receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.

It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two together, may also find a useful application in other types of methods differing from the type described above.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic aspects of this invention.

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What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. An article assembly comprising:
 - a) an article having a receivable end, and
 - b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving said receivable end of said article therein, thereby retaining said article when said stand is placed on a horizontal surface, said first and second feet each including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plane.
2. The article assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a base connected to a bottom side of said stand.
3. The article assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand for additionally receiving said receivable end of said article therein.

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4. The article assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toe end of said first and second feet are at an acute angle to one another.

5. An article assembly comprising:

A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second feet including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plane.

6. The article assembly as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a base connected to a bottom side of said stand.

7. The article assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand.

8. The article assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said toe end of said first and second feet are at an acute angle to one another.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,653,959 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/505791
DATED : February 2, 2010
INVENTOR(S) : Catanzaro

Page 1 of 3

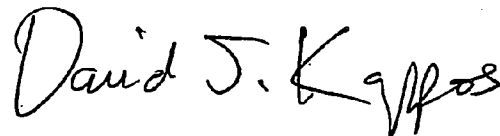
It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

The title page, showing an illustrative figure, should be deleted and substitute therefor the attached title page.

Delete drawing sheets 1-2 and substitute therefor the drawing sheet, consisting of figures 1-2 as shown on the attached page.

Signed and Sealed this

Eighteenth Day of May, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Kappos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'K'.

David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION (continued)

Page 2 of 3

(12) **United States Patent**
Catanzaro

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,653,959 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 2, 2010**

(54) **ARTICLE ASSEMBLY**

(76) **Inventor:** **David Catanzaro, 626 Penn Ave.,
Mayfield, PA (US) 18433**

(*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** **09/505,791**

(22) **Filed:** **Feb. 17, 2000**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/777,032, filed on Dec. 30, 1996, now Pat. No. 6,026,532.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A46B 9/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **15/167.1; 15/184; 15/143.1;
15/257.01; D4/108; D4/107; D6/534; 248/111;
248/908; 132/308**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **D4/104,
D4/107, 108, 125, 126; D6/528, 534; 15/167.1,
15/143.1, 184, 257.01, 146, 246; 248/163.1,
248/188.8, 188.9, 110, 111, 915, 908; 132/308,
132/309; 206/362.3, 349, 457**
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D155,668 S * 10/1949 Zandberg et al. D4/107
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3,140,782 A * 7/1964 Schulte 248/908
D209,574 S * 12/1967 Zandberg et al. D4/107
D279,248 S * 6/1985 Oliver D6/104
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D388,254 S * 12/1997 Schiffer D4/107
D392,464 S * 3/1998 Jesiolowski D4/107
D395,757 S * 7/1998 Schiffer D4/107
6,015,328 A * 1/2000 Glaser 15/167.1
6,026,532 A * 2/2000 Catanzaro 15/167.1
6,141,815 A * 11/2000 Harrison et al. 15/145

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand includes a copyright mark of 1990.*

Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand was on sale in Mar. 1999.*

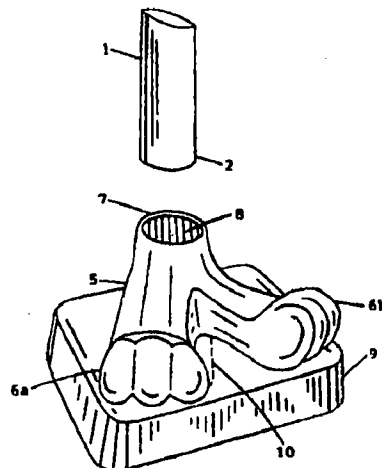
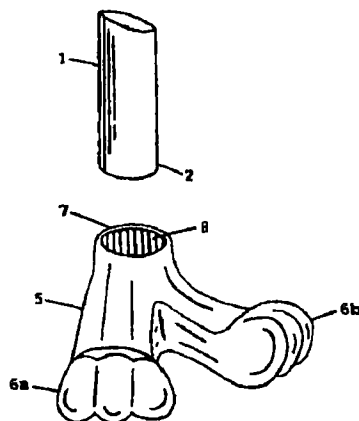
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Gary K. Graham

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An assembly comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end. A stand in the shape of a pair of feet retains the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface. For additional support, a base may be incorporated with the stand.

8 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION (continued)

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U.S. Pat. No. 7,653,959 B1

FIG.1

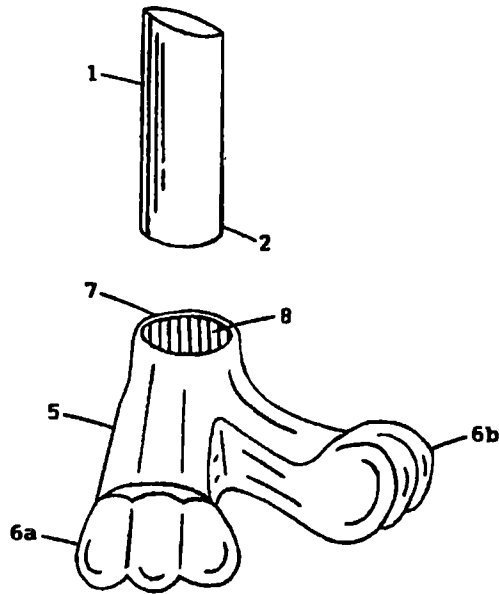


FIG.2

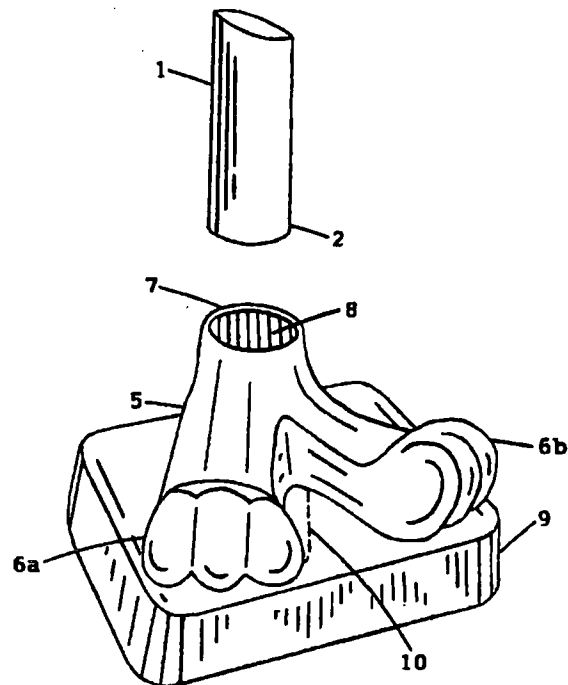


EXHIBIT B

CONFIDENTIAL

APPENDIX 1

ASSIGNMENT

Church & Dwight Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 500 Charles Ewing Boulevard, Ewing, New Jersey 08628, New Jersey ("Church & Dwight") is the present owner of U.S. Patent Number 6,026,532 entitled "Toothbrush Assembly" ("the '532 Patent") and all of the inventions set forth therein.


For valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Church & Dwight sells and assigns to David Catanzaro all right, title, and interest in the '532 Patent.

This assignment is subject to all preexisting licenses, covenants-not-to-sue and agreements-not-to-assert concerning the '532 Patent provided that the covenants-not-to-sue or agreements-not-to-assert were disclosed or known to David Catanzaro. David Catanzaro takes right, title and interest in the '532 Patent subject to all preexisting licenses, covenants-not-to-sue and agreements not to assert.

I authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to indicate that the entire right, title, and interest in the '532 Patent has been sold and assigned to David Catanzaro as set forth herein.

This ASSIGNMENT is effective as of August 31, 2016.

CHURCH & DWIGHT CO., INC.

By: 

Name: Ray Brown

Title: V.P., Global R&D